

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 074864

ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER:JFC/LLC

APPROVED BY NEA:ALATHERTON, JR.

IO - MR. HELMAN

S/S-O:TMARTIN

INR:HHSAUDERS (SUBS)

-----097209 230450Z /11

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

S E C R E T STATE 074864

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR IS XF MOPS

SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON SITUATION

REF: (A) TEL AVIV 3909 (NOTAL), (B) BEIRUT 1540,

(C) DAMASCUS 1598, (D) JERUSALEM 831

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PAGE 02 STATE 074864

1. FOR CHARGE VIETS: OUR INITIAL VIEW IS THAT YOU
SHOULD DRAW ON BEIRUT 1540 AND DAMASCUS 1598 TO BRIEF
WEIZMAN ONLY TO EXTENT WE SUGGEST BELOW. THE TALKS HELD
BY AL-HOSS AND MURPHY IN DAMASCUS WERE NOT ESPECIALLY
PRODUCTIVE AT THIS STAGE, BUT THEY ALSO WERE NOT CONCLU-
SIVE. OUR VIEW IS THAT WE CAN MAKE PROGRESS IN GETTING
THE SYRIANS TO DO WHAT WE ALL WANT AFTER SIILVASUO OR

WALDHEIM, OR BOTH, HAVE GOTTEN IN TOUCH WITH THE SYRIANS TO DESCRIBE THE PROGRESS WHICH HAS BEEN MADE, WITH PLANS FOR UNIFIL'S DISPOSITION, AND IDEALLY A TENTATIVE WITHDRAWAL SCHEDULE. THE LAST WOULD BE THE BEST FULCRUM TO APPLY LEVERAGE TO THE SYRIANS.

2. FOR CONGEN NEWLIN: WE BELIEVE YOU COULD BRIEF SIILVASUO FULLY.

YOU
SHOULD MAKE CLEAR THAT WE DO NOT TAKE THESE INITIAL EXCHANGES AS THE FINAL SYRIAN WORD ON THE SUBJECT AND THAT WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT HIS FORTHCOMING VISIT TO DAMASCUS, ALONG WITH OTHER POSSIBLE UN DEMARCHEs TO THE SYRIANS, WILL BE HELPFUL. IT IS OUR VIEW THAT PRESENTING TO THE SYRIANS DETAILED PLANS, INCLUDING TENTATIVE IDF WITHDRAWAL SCHEDULES, WILL BE PARTICULARLY HELPFUL, ALMOST ESSENTIAL. IF SYRIA DOES DECIDE TO MOVE IN THE DIRECTION THE U.S. AND UN WISH, THE FACT THAT IT COULD POINT TO APPEALS FROM THE UN AND LEBANON TO ASSIST THE UNIFIL IN STABILIZING THE SITUATION WILL PROVIDE SOME DEFENSE AGAINST CHARGES IT IS SELLING OUT THE PALESTINIANS.

3. BASIC POINTS THAT MIGHT BE MADE TO THE ISRAELIS ARE:

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PAGE 03 STATE 074864

-- THE LEBANESE HAVE MADE EFFORTS, BY SENDING THE PRIME MINISTER TO DAMASCUS, TO ENCOURAGE THE SYRIANS: (A) TO PUT PRESSURE ON THE PLO TO COMPLY WITH THE CEASEFIRE ARRANGEMENTS; (B) TO PREVENT THE PASSAGE OF IRAQI CONVOYS INTO LEBANON; AND (C) TO CONSIDER MOVING SOUTH FROM PRESENT RED LINE TO THE LITANI WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF NEUTRALIZING PALESTINIAN FORCES IN THIS NO-MAN'S-LAND. WE HAD ENCOURAGED THE LEBANESE TO MAKE SUCH EFFORTS.

-- MURPHY HAD BEEN IN TO SEE KHADDAM AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME, BUT HIS MOST PRESSING REQUEST WAS THAT THE SYRIANS STOP FURTHER IRAQI TRUCK CONVOY MOVEMENTS INTO LEBANON.

-- MURPHY WILL BE SEEING SYRIAN OFFICIALS AGAIN IMMEDIATELY AFTER SIILASVUO'S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO DAMASCUS TO LEND SUPPORT TO THE UN APPROACHES WITH SYRIA. MURPHY WILL ENCOURAGE THE SYRIANS TO CONSIDER POSITIVELY WAYS IN WHICH THE AREA BETWEEN THE RED LINE AND THE LITANI CAN BE NEUTRALIZED, INCLUDING SUCH STEPS AS ADF MOVE TO THE LITANI BRIDGES.

-- (FYI: THIS IS TRICKY TO HANDLE, AND WEIZMAN

MIGHT POSE OBJECTIONS, BUT YOU SHOULD

--- NOT INDICATE OR IMPLY IN ANY WAY THAT THE U.S.
MIGHT BE BOUND BY CONDITIONS THE ISRAELIS MIGHT
ATTACH TO A SYRIAN MOVE SOUTH. END FYI.

-- THE SYRIANS MADE VIRTUALLY IDENTICAL COMMENTS TO THE
LEBANESE AND MURPHY AS REGARDS THE IRAQI CONVOYS. (DRAW
ON REFTELS).

-- THE LEBANESE SEEM TO THINK THAT THE SYRIANS WOULD BE
RELATIVELY MORE WILLING TO CONTROL THE IRAQI CONVOYS

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PAGE 04 STATE 074864

AND POSSIBLY TAKE OTHER USEFUL STEPS IF THEY HAD
ADVANCE INFORMATION REGARDING A TIME-TABLE FOR IDF
WITHDRAWAL AND DEPLOYMENTS OF THE UNIFIL UNITS.

-- THE SYRIANS MADE CLEAR TO BOTH THE LEBANESE AND
MURPHY THAT IT STRONGLY SUPPORTS THE SECURITY COUNCIL
RESOLUTION AND WANTS TO ASSURE ITS IMPLEMENTATION.

-- KHADDAM INDICATED THAT ONCE THE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL
WAS COMPLETED, SYRIA WOULD ACT TO PREVENT ANY PARTY FROM
TRYING TO SABOTAGE LEBANESE STABILITY. ONCE WITHDRAWAL
OCCURRED, THE SYRIANS WOULD WORK IMMEDIATELY TO END ALL
PROVOCATIONS WHICH WOULD THREATEN AN EXPLOSION IN LEBANON.

-- WE INTEND TO CONTINUE URGING THE SYRIANS TO TAKE THE
MORE POSITIVE STEPS (WHICH KHADDAM IMPLIED MIGHT TAKE
PLACE AFTER WITHDRAWAL) 4OW, IN THE DAYS AHEAD, RATHER
THAN WAITING.

-- WE ARE NOT SURPRISED BY THESE INITIAL SYRIAN REACTIONS
AND BELIEVE THEY ARE NOT CONCLUSIVE. WE ARE SURE THAT
THE SYRIANS DO NOT WANT TO SEE A DETERIORATION IN THE
SITUATION. ASSAD HAS CANCELLED HIS TRIP TO INDIA.
SYRIAN CAUTION DURING THESE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS HAS
BEEN SELF-EVIDENT, AND SYRIA WAS ALSO HELPFUL WITH THE
OTHER ARAB STATES IN FORESTALLING EFFORTS TO PUT
LANGUAGE CONDEMNATORY OF ISRAEL IN THE RESOLUTION.

-- AS FOR THE LEBANESE, THEY REMAIN HIGHLY CONCERNED
ABOUT THE PRESENT DANGERS AND ARE CASTING ABOUT FOR
WAYS IN WHICH THE PLO CAN BE CONTROLLED. THEY ARE
ASKING FOR SAUDI HELP IN THIS REGARD.

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PAGE 05 STATE 074864

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PAGE 01 STATE 074864
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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

66011
DRAFTED BY IO/UNA:BJSHARP
APPROVED BY IO/UNA:AFHOLLOWAY
S/S-O:DCAMP

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
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DAMASCUS USUN NY PARIS LONDON AMMAN CAIRO JIDDA KUWAIT 23
MAR 78 QUOTE

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ARRANGEMENTS; (B) TO PREVENT THE PASSAGE OF IRAQI CONVOYS INTO LEBANON; AND (C) TO CONSIDER MOVING SOUTH FROM PRESENT RED LINE TO THE LITANI WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF NEUTRALIZING PALESTINIAN FORCES IN THIS NO-MAN'S-LAND. WE HAD ENCOURAGED THE LEBANESE TO MAKE SUCH EFFORTS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INSTRUCTIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, MILITARY OCCUPIED AREAS, DEBRIEFINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 mar 1978
Decapton Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decapton Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3223234
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOUTH LEBANON SITUATION
TAGS: PEPR, MOPS, IS, XF
To: TEL AVIV JERUSALEM
Type: TE
vdkgvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d2b2d7be-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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20 Mar 2014
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